

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 201

July 15, 1994, 12:44 p.m.
Page S-9078 Temp. Record

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS/Cooperative Threat Reduction

SUBJECT: Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1995
... H.R. 4426. Domenici modified amendment No. 2284.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 56-38

SYNOPSIS: Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 171-174, 190-200, and 202-203.

As reported, H.R. 4426, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1995, will provide a net of \$13.68 billion in new budget authority (BA) for fiscal year (FY) 1995, which is \$632 million less than provided in FY 1994. Israel will receive \$3 billion; Egypt will receive \$2.1 billion; the countries of the former Soviet Union will receive \$839 million; Eastern Europe and the Baltic states will receive \$359 million.

The Domenici modified amendment would give the President the authority to transfer up to \$919 million from Agency for International Development (AID) funds in this bill for Russia and Ukraine to the Department of Defense to help fund the Nunn-Lugar nuclear threat reduction program (which is involved in the dismantling of nuclear weapons in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus). (The transfer authority of \$919 million is equal to the amount transferred in fiscal year 1994 from the Defense Department to the Agency for International Development.)

Those favoring the amendment contended:

One of the top foreign policy priorities is the securing and destruction of the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union. As long as they exist, they pose an enormous threat to world security, particularly from terrorist nations and groups that we know have been trying assiduously to acquire them. Starting in 1992, Congress has funded a program in the Defense Department known as the Nunn/Lugar program, which is designed to assist the states of the former Soviet Union in eliminating the dangerous stockpiles of nuclear weapons on their territory. That program has been slow in getting started for a number of reasons, including that it took some

(See other side)

YEAS (56)			NAYS (38)			NOT VOTING (6)	
Republicans (37 or 90%)		Democrats (19 or 36%)	Republicans (4 or 10%)		Democrats (34 or 64%)	Republicans (3)	Democrats (3)
Bennett	Helms	Akaka	Danforth	Baucus	Kohl	Coverdell- ²	Boren- ²
Bond	Hutchison	Bingaman	Hatfield	Biden	Lautenberg	Lott- ²	Bradley- ²
Brown	Jeffords	Breaux	McConnell	Boxer	Leahy	Wallop- ^{1AY}	Campbell- ²
Burns	Kassebaum	Bumpers	Packwood	Bryan	Levin		
Chafee	Kempthorne	Byrd		Conrad	Mathews		
Coats	Lugar	DeConcini		Daschle	Metzenbaum		
Cochran	Mack	Exon		Dodd	Mikulski		
Cohen	McCain	Feinstein		Dorgan	Mitchell		
Craig	Murkowski	Graham		Feingold	Moseley-Braun		
D'Amato	Nickles	Heflin		Ford	Moynihan		
Dole	Pressler	Inouye		Glenn	Murray		
Domenici	Roth	Lieberman		Harkin	Pell		
Durenberger	Simpson	Nunn		Hollings	Reid		
Faircloth	Smith	Pryor		Johnston	Rockefeller		
Gorton	Specter	Riegle		Kennedy	Sarbanes		
Gramm	Stevens	Robb		Kerrey	Simon		
Grassley	Thurmond	Sasser		Kerry	Wellstone		
Gregg	Warner	Shelby					
Hatch		Wofford					

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

time to convince those nations it was in their interest to start destroying the weapons, that it was time consuming to comply with the conditions that Congress had placed on the expenditure of the funds, and that the technical complexities of proceeding with the program also took a lot of time to solve. Thus, though \$1.2 billion has been made available over the 1992 to 1994 period, only \$50 million has been spent to date, and much of the original authority has lapsed.

At the same time, though, it appears that the program is finally moving forward. We have signed legal agreements with those countries obligating us to spend more than \$1 billion on nuclear weapon destruction. Unfortunately, we have less than \$700 million available for obligation. We spent trillions of dollars arming ourselves against the Soviet Union for decades; now, with the expenditure of a few billion dollars, we can eliminate that threat forever.

The problem appears to be finding those billions. America is nearly broke, and it is facing numerous military threats, most significantly from North Korea. The Defense Department has been heavily cut in recent years with the expectation that the United States would no longer face significant military threats, and, now that it does, there is little slack in the defense budget. The majority of Members no longer look on defense as a "cash cow" that they can milk to pay for their favorite domestic programs. With the Defense Department having been drastically reduced, and with it scrambling to find the funds it needs to maintain readiness to meet immediate military threats, it may prove difficult to find the funding needed for the Nunn/Lugar program.

The Domenici modified amendment would provide one possible solution. It would allow, but not require, the President to transfer money from foreign aid to the weapons destruction program. Thus, if it became impossible to fund the program from the Defense budget, at least another option would exist. In the interest of equity, because we realize the sensitivity Senators have to the transfer of funds between defense, international, and domestic discretionary accounts, we have limited the transfer authority to the amount that was taken from Defense last year to spend on foreign aid. In other words, then, if the President finds it necessary, he will be allowed to give the same amount back. We think this is a fair and prudent amendment that merits our approval.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

We wholeheartedly support the Nunn/Lugar program, but we do not favor its proposed funding source. We have joined with our colleagues over the years in trying to block raids on the defense budget, and a few times we have actually succeeded. We would hope that our colleagues would reciprocate by blocking this amendment's attempted raid on the foreign aid budget. The amount spent on foreign aid is less than \$20 billion, but, far from being a giveaway, most of these expenditures return numerous benefits for the United States. In comparison, the Defense budget is still at \$250 billion. If any slack is going to be found in either budget, we believe it is going to be found in the Defense budget. For the record, we also think it is appropriate to mention that a large portion of the current difficulties that the Nunn/Lugar program is having is caused by the mismanagement of the program, which allowed much of the obligational authority that has been given to it to lapse. Using the foreign aid budget to bail out a mismanaged Defense Department program would be inappropriate. We therefore must vote ag

VOTE NO.
